

CLAIM LISTING

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a supply of electrolyte to a molten carbonate fuel cell, said method comprising the steps of:
 - a) preparing a an aqueous-based slurry paste of electrolyte, said aqueous-based slurry comprising solid electrolyte particles dispersed in a carrier vehicle; and
 - b) spreading said slurry paste into flow channels of ~~the~~ one or more bipolar plates during assembly so as to completely fill said flow channels; and
 - c) drying said slurry paste, and
 - d) installing ~~a~~ a current collector and an electrode onto the flow channels of said bipolar plate.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said carrier vehicle is present in the slurry in the amount of about 27%.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said carrier vehicle is water.
4. (Currently Amended) A molten carbonate fuel cell comprising a cathode electrode and an anode electrode each having a matrix side and a flow field side, said matrix side of said anode electrode and said matrix side of said cathode electrode positioned on either side and in contact with an electrolyte matrix, ~~and wherein the anode and cathode are contacting flow fields on the sides of the electrodes opposite the electrolyte matrix;~~ electrode is in contact with a first flow field on the flow field side of the anode electrode, wherein the cathode electrode is in contact with a second flow field on the flow field side of the cathode electrode, and wherein the flow field of at least one electrode of the first flow field and second flow field contains a packed bed of dried electrolyte,
wherein the packed bed of dried electrolyte is prepared by spreading an aqueous-based slurry of solid electrolyte particles dispersed in a carrier into at least one of the first flow field and second flow field and drying the slurry.

5. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell of claim 4 wherein the carrier ~~of the dried electrolyte had been~~ is water.
6. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the aqueous-based slurry paste is dried by flowing ambient air over the bipolar plates.
7. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the electrolyte comprises lithium carbonate and potassium carbonate.
8. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the electrolyte comprises 62 mole% lithium carbonate and 38 mole% potassium carbonate.

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